

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 SOE-02 AF-10
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALT TWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JULY 18 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
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1. JIM HOAGLAND OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT CARTER
ADMINISTRATION WILL RESUME "ROUTINE NEGOTIATIONS" WITH
SOVIET UNION TODAY IN HELSINKI ON LIMITING CONVENTIONAL ARMS
TRANSFERS. HOAGLAND SAID STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TOM
RESTON TOLD NEWSMEN YESTERDAY NO FORMAL AGREEMENT WAS
EXPECTED AT HELSINKI MEETING, THIRD SUCH PARLEY SINCE

DECEMBER, BUT THAT U.S. HOPED FOR "SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS" ON FINDING JOINT APPROACH TO CUTTING BACK ARMS SHIPMENTS ABROAD. RESTON SAID HELSINKI MEETING WOULD BE HELD AS SCHEDULED "BECAUSE, AS WITH OTHER ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS, IT IS IN INTEREST OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY TO DO SO."

HOAGLAND SAID EFFECT OF U.S. DECISION WAS TO EXEMPT HELSINKI TALKS FROM GENERAL REVIEW OF AMERICAN-SOVIET COOPERATION THAT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK DURING STORM OF PROTEST OVER TRIALS AND SENTENCINGS OF DISSIDENTS SHCHARANSKY AND GINZBURG. HOAGLAND REPORTED THAT RESTON SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS HAD BEEN CONSULTED ON DECISION. RESTON TURNED AWAY QUESTIONS ON WHETHER ARMS TRANSFER TALKS REPRESENTED RETURN TO

"BUSINESS AS USUAL" BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON, SAYING THAT HE COULD NOT CHARACTERIZE SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AT MOMENT, HOAGLAND REPORTED. OTHER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SPOKE HOPEFULLY OF RESUMING OF ARMS TRANSFER MEETING AS ONE OF SEVERAL SMALL SIGNS THAT TENSION IS EASING SLIGHTLY IN WAKE OF LAST WEEK'S ACRIMONIOUS EX-CHANGES." HOAGLAND SAID JULY 15 PRAVDA REPORT PORTRAYED VANCE'S MEETING WITH GROMYKO IN GENEVA AS HAVING BEEN BUSINESSLIKE AND INSULATED FROM DOMESTIC AMERICAN CONCERN ABOUT DISSIDENT TRIALS.

2. PHIL GAILEY OF WASHINGTON STAR SAID FEW DOUBT THAT
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SENATOR FRANK CUURCH, "WITH HIS STRONG VIEWS AND LARGE EGO", IS GOING TO MOVE QUICKLY TO RESTORE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE'S INFLUENCE AND PRESTIGE IN SHAPING OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. HE SAID CHURCH PLANS TO PLAY LEAD ROLE IN PUSHING SALT TREATY THROUGH SENATE -- "JOB THAT BECOMES MORE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, AS COLD WAR MIST SETTLES OVER U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS." GAILEY SAID CHURCH REPORTEDLY IS FURIOUS OVER WHITE HOUSE SUGGESTION THAT HE MUST DELIVER ON SALT IF HE IS TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AS STRONG LEADER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. CHURCH RECENTLY WARNED ADMINISTRATION THAT ITS COLD WAR-LIKE RHETORIC ABOUT SOVIET ROLE IN AFRICA IS JEOPARDIZING ANY CHANCE OF GETTING SALT TREATY THROUGH SENATE. CHURCH SAID "USING 'RUSSIANS ARE COMING' THEME IS DANGEROUS GAME. YOU CAN'T KEEP THROWING RED MEAT TO LIONS IN SENATE AND GET SALT TREATY."

3. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST MARQUIS CHILDS, WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID SENATOR JACKSON, WITH POWERFUL FORCES BEHIND HIM, IS PRACTICING WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED "PARLIAMENT-ARY ABORTION." CHILDS SAID IF JACKSON AND CERTAIN OF HIS ALLIES HAVE THEIR WAY, "NOT ONLY WILL POSSIBLE SALT TWO

TREATY BE DEFEATED, BUT MOREOVER THERE WILL BE NO TREATY FOR SENATE AND AMERICAN PEOPLE TO ASSESS." CHILDS SAID JACKSON, "LONG AN OPPONENT OF ANY AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION," CAME OUT IN OPEN OTHER DAY. JACKSON, HE SAID, ATTACKED VERY IDEA OF SALT TREATY THAT WOULD, ACCORDING TO JACKSON, GIVE SOVIETS 300 LARGE, MODERN INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILES WHILE U.S. WOULD GET NONE. JACKSON WAS CHALLENGED BY SENATOR THOMAS MCINTYRE, WHO ARGUED THAT SENATE SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE CHANCE TO SEE TREATY IF ONE IS FINALLY ACHIEVED, CHILDS REPORTED. MCINTYRE POINTED OUT THAT NEGOTIATIONS THUS FAR HAD TENTATIVELY REQUIRED SOVIETS TO DESTROY SOME 300 OF THEIR LAUNCHERS. "ALL I AM SAYING", MCINTYRE CONCLUDED, "IS TO GIVE SALT TREATY A CHANCE BEFORE AMERICAN PEOPLE. MUST WE BEAT IT TO DEATH BEFORE WE GET UNCLASSIFIED

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IT?"

4. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT SENATOR SAM NUNN, IN SPEECH AT WARNER ROBBINS AIR FORCE BASE IN GEORGIA, SAID HE HAD NOT MADE UP HIS MIND WHETHER TO SUPPORT NEW SALT ACCORD. NUNN STRESSED THAT ARMS TALKS COULD NOT BE VIEWED APART FROM "GENERAL DETERIORATION" IN SOVIET-AMERICAN MILITARY BALANCE IN RECENT YEARS. BURT SAID NUNN ACCUSED ADMINISTRATION OF ALLOWING SALT NEGOTIATIONS TO SHAPE U.S. DEFENSE POLICY AND ARGUED THAT U.S., BEFORE SITTING DOWN TO NEGOTIATE WITH SOVIET UNION, SHOULD FIRST DETERMINE WHAT ITS MILITARY REQUIREMENTS WERE. "I HAVE SLOWLY AND SADLY COME TO CONCLUSION THAT, FOR SOVIETS, THEIR STRATEGIC PROGRAMS DRIVE THEIR ARMS NEGOTIATIONS, WHILE FOR U.S., OUR ARMS NEGOTIATIONS DRIVE OUR STRATEGIC PROGRAMS." AS CASE IN POINT, BURT REPORTED THAT NUNN SAID PRIMARY GOAL OF SALT TALKS SHOULD HAVE BEEN TO PREVENT U.S. LAND-BASED MINUTEMAN MISSILES FROM BECOMING VULNERABLE TO POSSIBLE SOVIET FIRST STRIKE IN 1980S. BUT HE SAID THIS GOAL HAD "EVAPORATED" AND THAT EVERYONE NOW AGREES THAT ENHANCED SURVIVABILITY OF OUR MINUTEMAN FORCE WILL NOT BE OBTAINED IN NEW AGREEMENT." BURT SAID IN NEW REPORT ON ARMS TALKS RELEASED THIS WEEK, ADMINISTRATION ACKNOWLEDGES THAT "BOTH AMERICAN AND SOVIET LAND-BASED FORCES ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY VULNERABLE TO ATTACK." HOWEVER, HE SAID, 58-PAGE REPORT, MOST EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF NEGOTIATIONS RELEASED SO FAR, ASSERTS THAT THIS SITUATION WOULD DEVELOP WITH OR WITHOUT ARMS LIMITATIONS.;

5. FREE LANCER TAD SZULC, WRITING IN JULY 16 WASHINGTON POST, SAID STARK TRUTH IS THAT U.S. LACKS SUFFICIENT LEVERAGE OVER MOSCOW TO AFFECT ANY OF ITS POLICIES." HE SAID "PRESUMABLY, SOVIETS HAVE CALCULATED--RIGHTLY OR UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT--THAT RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. MAY AGAIN IMPROVE WITHIN, SAY, YEAR AFTER THIS SUMMER'S TRIALS, BECAUSE IN LONG RUN, TWO NUCLEAR SUPERPOWERS MUST HAVE DIALOGUE OF SOME SORT. BUT FOR TIME BEING, TOP SOVIET PRIORITY IS INTERNAL, AND MOSCOW OBVIOUSLY REALIZES THAT U.S. LACKS MEANINGFUL LEVERAGE TO FORCE IT TO ABANDON ITS DOMESTIC HARD LINE-- AND EVEN TO CHANGE ITS POLICIES IN SUCH AREAS OF INTERNATIONAL CONTACT AS SALT AND AFRICA." SZULC SAID REGARDLESS OF MOSCOW TRIALS, KREMLIN KNOWS THAT CARTER CANNOT SUBMIT SALT TREATY TO SENATE UNTIL AFTER NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. VANCE'S MEETINGS WITH GROMYKO IN GENEVA LAST WEEK, HE POINTED OUT, "WERE CLEAR SIGNAL THAT SALT WAS TOO IMPORTANT TO WASHINGTON TO BE USED AS LEVER AGAINST MOSCOW." CHRISTOPHER

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